[0037] FIG. **8**D is a bottom side profile perspective view of a portable computer system having foldable type flexible display panel, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

[0038] FIG. **9** is a block diagram of the palmtop computer system in FIG. **6**, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

[0039] FIG. **10** is a block diagram of the palmtop computer system in FIGS. **7** and **8**, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

[0040] FIG. **11** is a flow chart showing the steps in a method **1100** for utilizing flexible touch sensors in a portable computer system configured with flexible display panels.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0041] A user interface for a portable computer system. In one embodiment, the user interface comprises a flexible display panel. In one embodiment, the user interface comprises a flexible touch sensor. In one embodiment, the flexible display panel is disposed above the flexible touch sensor. In one embodiment, the technology employed in the fabrication of the flexible display panel is electronic paper technology. In the following description, for purposes of explanation, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the present invention. It will be obvious, however, to one skilled in the art that the present invention may be practiced without these specific details. In some instances, well-known structures and devices are shown in block diagram form in order to avoid obscuring the present invention. In other instances, well-known methods, procedures, component, and circuits have not been described in detail as not to unnecessarily obscure aspects of the present invention.

Notation and Nomenclature

[0042] Some portions of the detailed descriptions, which follow, are presented in terms of procedures, steps, logic blocks, processing, and other symbolic representations of operations on data bits that can be performed on computer memory. These descriptions and representations are the means used by those skilled in the data processing arts to most effectively convey the substance of their work to others skilled in the art. A procedure, computer executed step, logic block, process, etc., is here, and generally, conceived to be a self-consistent sequence of steps or instructions leading to a desired result. The steps are those requiring physical manipulations of physical quantities. Usually, though not necessarily, these quantities take the form of electrical or magnetic signals capable of being stored, transferred, combined, compared, and otherwise manipulated in a computer system. It has proven convenient at times, principally for reasons of common usage, to refer to these signals as bits, values, elements, symbols, characters, terms, numbers, or the like.

[0043] It should be borne in mind, however, that all of these and similar terms are to be associated with the appropriate physical quantities and are merely convenient labels applied to these quantities. Unless specifically stated otherwise as apparent from the following discussions, it is appreciated that throughout the present invention, discussions utilizing terms such as "activating" or "deactivating" or "ascertaining" or "identifying" or "determining" or "indicating" or "transmitting" or "relaying" or "performing" or "translating" or "sending" or "touching" or "implementing" or "disabling" or "enabling" or "displaying" or "controlling" or the like, refer to the action and processes of a computer system or similar electronic computing device, that manipulates and transforms data represented as physical (electronic) quantities within the computer system's registers and memories into other data similarly represented as physical quantities within the computer system memories or registers or other such information storage, transmission or display devices.

[0044] Embodiments of the present invention are discussed primarily in the context of a portable computer system, such as a palmtop or personal digital assistant. However, it is appreciated that the present invention can be used with other types of portable electronic devices that utilize a flexible panel display device, including but not limited to palmtop computer systems, pagers, cell phones, remote web browsers, remote control devices, etc.

Exemplary Palmtop Platform

[0045] FIG. **2**A is a block diagram of an exemplary network environment **50** including a portable computer system **100** in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. Portable computer system **100** is also known as a palmtop or palm-sized computer system. In one embodiment, portable computer system **100** has the ability to transmit and receive data and information over a wireless communication interface (e.g., a radio interface). For purposes of the present application, the term "portable computer system" is not intended to be limited solely to conventional palmtop or portable computers. Instead, the term "portable computer" or "portable computer system" is also intended to include any mobile electronic device. Such mobile devices include but are not limited to pagers and paging systems, wireless and cellular telephones, electronic address books, and numerous other mobile devices which may have the ability to wirelessly communicate with a network. As such, for purposes of the present application, the terms "portable computer" and "mobile device" will be considered synonymous and will be used interchangeably.

[0046] Base station **32** can be both a transmitter and receiver base station, which can be implemented by coupling it into an existing public telephone network **34**. Implemented in this manner, base station **32** enables portable computer system **100** to communicate with a proxy server computer system **36**, which is coupled by wire to the existing public telephone network **34**. Furthermore, proxy server computer system **36** is coupled to the Internet **52**, thereby enabling portable computer system **100** to communicate with the Internet **52**. When communicating with a Web site over Internet **52**, protocols such as CTP (Compact Transport Protocol) and CML (Compact Markup Language) can be used by portable computer system **100** in the present embodiment.

[0047] It should be appreciated that one of the functions of proxy server **36** is to perform operations over the Internet **52** on behalf of portable computer system **100**. For example, proxy server **36** has a particular Internet address and acts as a proxy device for portable computer system **100** over the Internet **52**.

[0048] It should be further appreciated that other embodiments of a communications network, planned or envisioned, may be utilized in accordance with the present invention. For example, a wireless connection may be made from portable computer system **100** directly to the Internet **52**.